

Dartmouth Woodmen's Weekend 2009



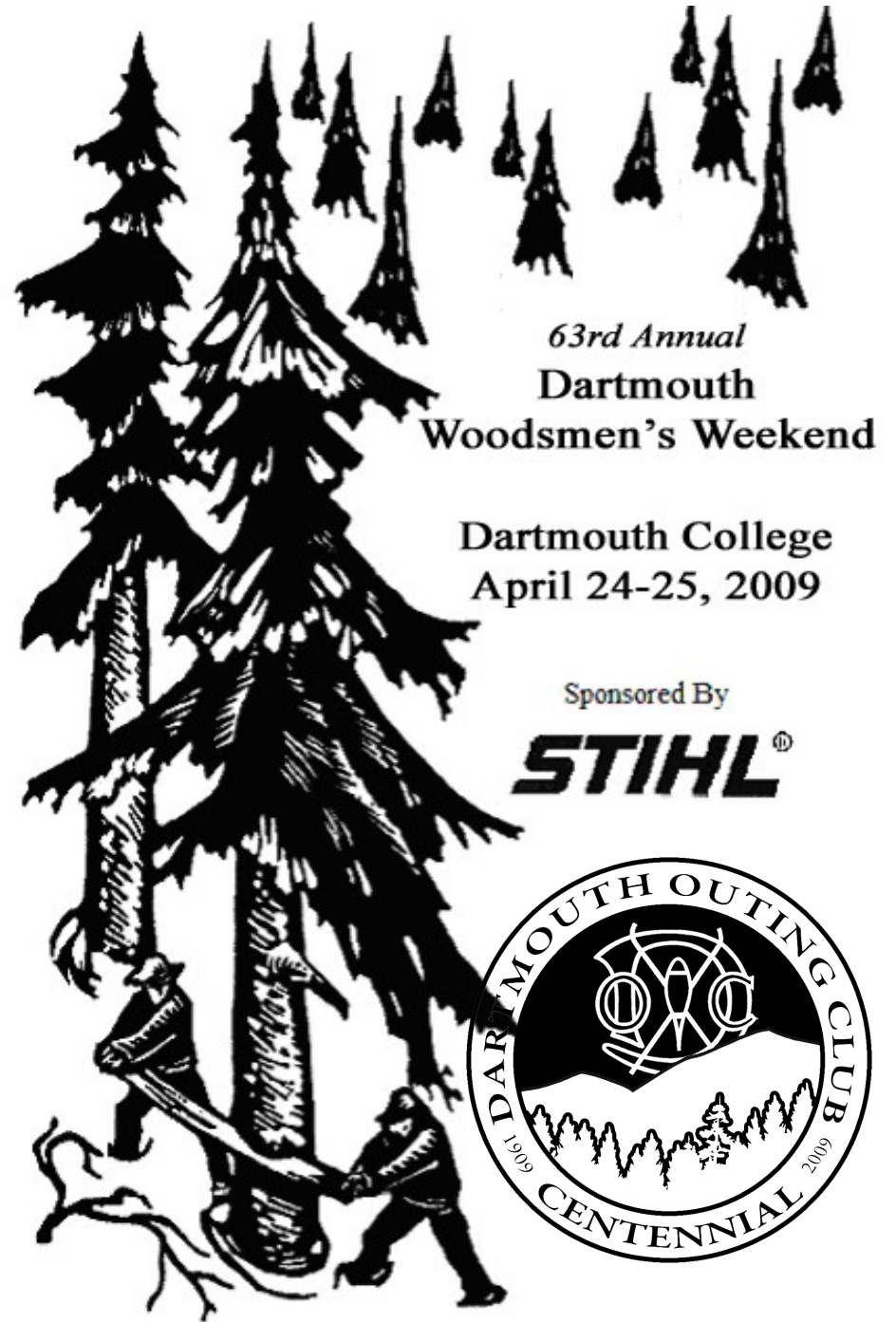
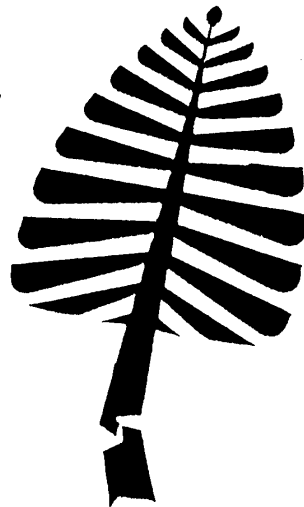
Dartmouth Outing Club, Cabin and Trail Division

Welcome to Dartmouth and Hanover!

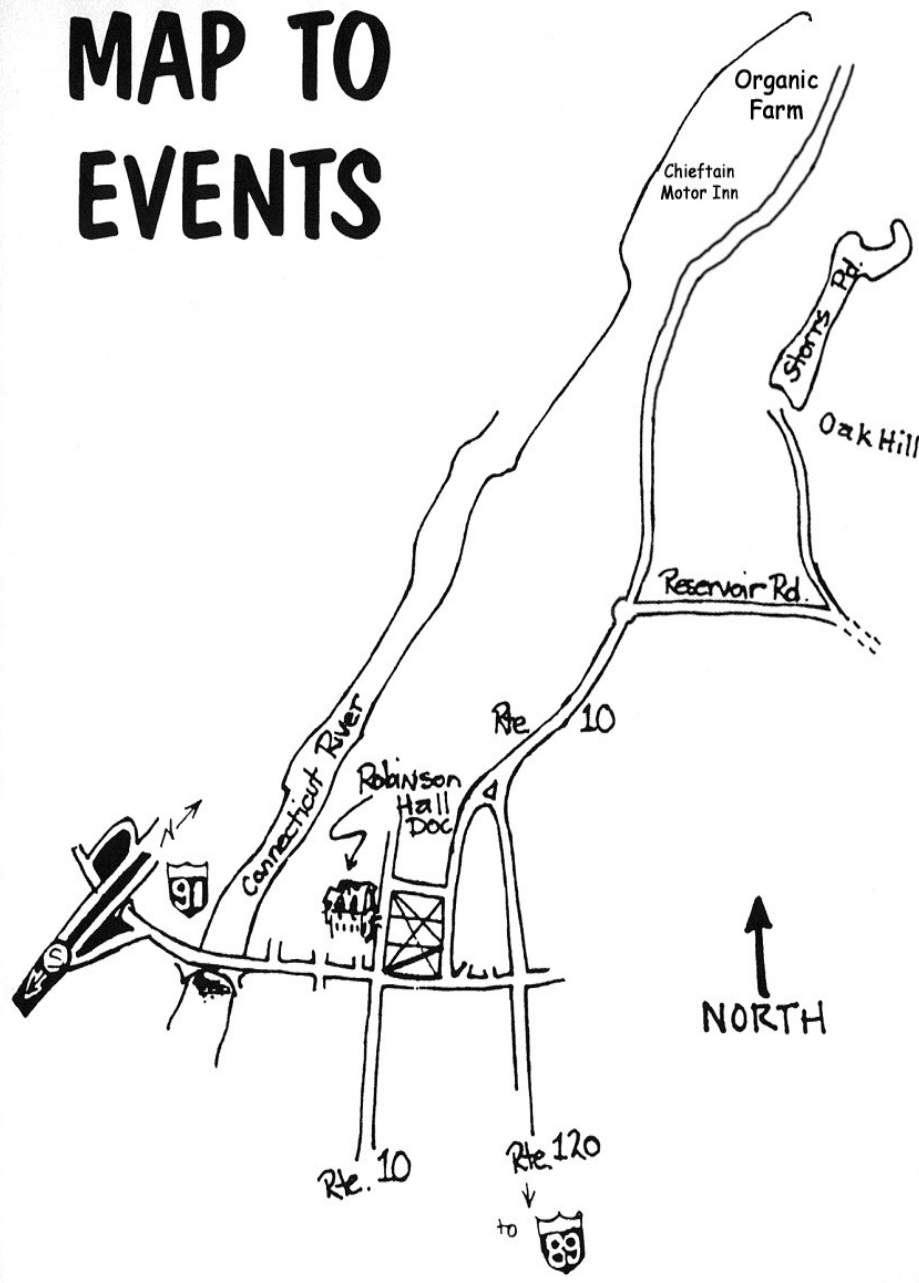
Good Luck to All!

FTD

TOR



MAP TO EVENTS



Rain location for both days' competition is Oak Hill

The Farmer's Diner - Local food from local farms
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*Special Thanks to the
 Generosity of Members of
 the Dartmouth Ski Patrol!*

*And a BIG thank you to
 all our volunteer judges,
 shuttle drivers, advisors,
 alumni, and the
 incredible staff of the
 Dartmouth Outing Club!*



*Many thanks to the generous local businesses
who donated items to our raffle!*



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Canoe Club Restaurant

Hanover, NH - www.canoeclub.us



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Schedule of Events

Friday, April 24: Dartmouth Organic Farm

8:00 am	Singles Canoeing
	Doubles Canoeing
	Portage Canoeing
	Team Crosscut
	Team Bowsaw
1:00 pm	Log roll
	Pulp toss
	Quarter Split
3:00 pm	Scoot Load
	Fire Build
4:30 pm	Packboard Relay
5:30 pm	STIHL Chopping Demonstration
6:30 pm	Woodsmen's Weekend Competitors' Banquet <i>Volunteers Welcome (FREE) and Alumni welcome (cash at the door). Live Music!</i>

Saturday, April 25: Hanover Green

8:00 am	Single Buck
	Axe Throw
	Birling
	Fly Cast
	Obstacle Course
	Chain Throw
	Vertical chop
	Horizontal Chop
12:00 pm	
2:00 pm	STIHL Collegiate Challenge
6:00 pm	Awards Ceremony (on the Green)
7:15pm	DOC Student / Alumni Banquet (at the DOC House)

TEAMS

The Dartmouth Woodsmen's Team
welcomes this year's burly competitors from:

University of Vermont
Burlington, VT

Dartmouth College
Hanover, NH

SUNY College of Environmental
Science and Forestry
Syracuse, NY

SUNY College of Environmental
Science and Forestry - Ranger School
Wanakena, NY

SUNY-Cobleskill
Cobleskill, NY

Sir Sanford Fleming College
Peterborough, Ontario

Colby College
Waterville, ME

Unity College
Unity, ME

University of New Hampshire
Durham, NH

University of Connecticut
Storrs, CT

Finger Lakes Community College
Canandaigua, NY

Paul Smith's College
Paul Smiths, NY

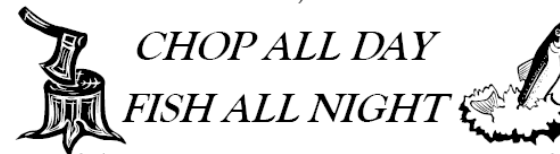
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Dartmouth Woodmen's Weekend 2009

We Applaud the Hard Work of:

Meet Directors	Alix Perez Lawrence '10 Lauren Lesser '10 Max Bogren '10
Head Judge	Jim "Pork Roll" Taylor '74
Master of Ceremonies	Kevin Peterson '82
Awards	Sarah Parkinson '09
Competitor's Banquet	Marianne Epstein '08 Paul Magyar '09 <i>Catered by Stinsons</i>
DOC Banquet	Phil Bracikowski '08
Set-Up	Laura Kamfonik '08 Adrian Doran '11
Judging	Courtney Talmadge '09 Ashley Morishige '11
Publicity	Emily Kyker Snowman '11
Program	Ibrahim Elshamy '09
Advisors	Rory Gawler '05 Jim "Pork Roll" Taylor '74 David Hooke '84 Put Blodgett '53
T-shirts	Marissa Giustina TH
Stihl Representative	Brad Sorgen
Scoring	Luke Mann O'Halloran '09
Supplies and Wood	Luke Mann O'Halloran '09 Phil Bracikowski '08 Ross Connor '10 Chris Farmer '08
Clean Up	David Nutt '09

DESCRIPTION OF EVENTS

Each event is worth 100 points. The team with the fastest time and/or greatest accuracy is awarded 100 points; scoring for the other teams is graded proportionately to these winning results. Women's and Men's teams will be scored separately.

While allowing legitimate innovations or technique improvements for the various events, the rules are intended to insure some similarity to the conditions under which the competitors must function.

Singles Events

Chain Throw: Coil and “throw” the unraveled chain. Scoring is by speed and appearance of the “thrown” chain.

Axe Throw: Throw an axe at the target from twenty feet away. Each competitor will get two practices before the five official throws.

Single Buck: A competitor must cut through a round log in the shortest time possible using crosscut saw.

Fly Cast: Make two fly casts from thirty-five and fifty feet at a target for accuracy. Each contestant will have five minutes.

Birling: In the first round, the competitor attempts to stay balanced on a floating log for as long as possible. The top four from the first round go head to head on the log to decide first through fourth places.

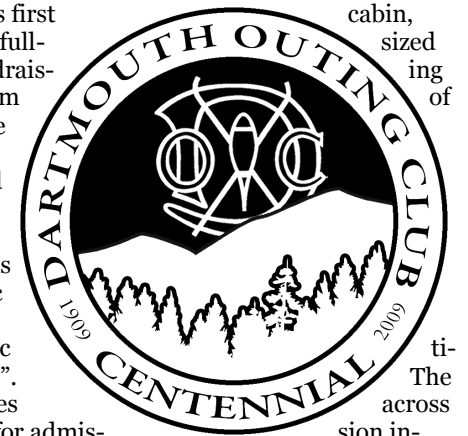
Obstacle Course: The contestant completes an obstacle course for time consisting of pulp pile, choker set, dot split, and bucksawing while balancing on a log.

Doubles Events

Vertical Chop: Two contestants chop through a vertical square white pine cant in the fastest time possible.

Scoot Load: Load three logs onto a scoot for time using peaveys or cant dogs.

on Moose Mountain outside Hanover as its first and in 1913 raised money to build its first, full- and fully equipped cabin, nearby. The fundraising effort reached the Boston papers in the form of an article titled “Dartmouth Men Plan Line of Camps in the White Mountains”. With facilities, money, a great annual event, and the enthusiastic support of many faculty, the club took the quiet Dartmouth campus by storm. It grew steadily through the teens and then, in 1920, came the most dramatic event of all. In February 1920, Harris published an article in the National Geographic titled “Skiing over the New Hampshire Hills”. The article was read in nearly two million homes across the country, and that spring, applications for admission increased from 825 to 2625. This forced the College to go to selective admissions, from which it never turned back.



By the mid 1920s, membership in the DOC reached 73% of students. In 1920, Sherman Adams '20 and others created Cabin and Trail, the central club governing body of some eighty men, and soon membership was one of the most hotly sought honors on the campus. Ledyard Canoe Club, the Bait and Bullet Club, and Boots and Saddles were founded. Winter Carnival grew to an event of regional significance. The DOC chain of cabins neared 20 at one point in the early 30s, and in 1926 the DOC and its trail became a founding link in the new Appalachian Trail. The DOC became the leading Eastern group in the organization of competitive winter sports.

The blossoming of the environmental and outdoors movements in the late 1960s sparked a new era for DOC. In order to support JR and give a broader base for programs, the College created the Office of Outdoor Affairs in 1970, and appointed Al Merrill to run it. In addition to overseeing the DOC, the office was given responsibility for recreational programs in the College Grant, and for recreational management of the Ravine Lodge. Meanwhile, the Freshman Trip, spurred by the surge of outdoor interest at that time, expanded to over 70% of the class by 1973, which put the old Lodge systems to a severe test. In response, in 1974 the College gave full operational control of the Lodge to Al and Outdoor Affairs, and agreed to a substantial shot of funding to replace the septic system and various other life-safety elements.

Cabin and Trail, which had become a division of DOC rather than its central body in 1937, underwent a major revival in the early 70s. With a strong push from Jim “Porkroll” Taylor '74, C&T got back into Woodsmen's Weekend in a serious way, and began the tradition of hosting the annual Spring meeting triennially, starting in 1974. Coeducation (1971) was a struggle at first, but by the 1976 meet women were fully integrated, and won the Spring Meet that year. The Men's team won the spring meet (then dominated by the University of Maine and Paul Smith's College) in 1978, for the first time in 22 years. With an impressive history more extensive than the modest sample presented here, at 100 years old the DOC stands today at one of the strongest points in its history, a healthy and vibrant contributor to the image and stature of Dartmouth College.

100 Years: Dartmouth Outing Club's Centennial Anniversary, 1909-2009

The Dartmouth Outing Club (DOC) was originally formed in 1909 to, “stimulate interest in out-of-door winter sports”, and quickly grew to encompass the College’s year-round out-of-doors recreation. The club has undergone constant evolution over the course of its 100-year history to meet the ever-changing needs of its members.

Today the club has over 1,500 student members (about a quarter of the College’s student population), and about as many non-student members, making it (to our knowledge) the largest collegiate outing club in the nation (as well as the first). The DOC organizes trips in the out-of-doors, provides outdoor leader and medical/safety education, maintains over seventy miles of the Appalachian National Scenic Trail, and is the first introduction to the College for most of the incoming students.

Due to its size, the Dartmouth Outing Club is organized as an umbrella organization for about a dozen member clubs, which each specialize in an aspect of outdoor recreation. Membership in the DOC is open to all members of the Dartmouth community, and to others who share common interests.

History of the Outing Club

Fred Harris, Class of 1911, founded the Dartmouth Outing Club in the winter of 1909–10. Harris was a native of Brattleboro, Vermont, and by his own account had “skeeing on the brain”. This pleasant affliction had him making skis (the typical size was eight feet long, ash or hickory) and using them on the local hills and farm fields. When he arrived at Dartmouth, he found to his dismay that winter was considered a thoroughly dismal season, which most students spent cooped up in stuffy rooms playing cards in their free time. In the fall of Harris’s junior year, he proposed, in a newspaper editorial, that an Outing Club be formed, to take advantage of the winter through ski and snowshoe trips, and have an end-of-winter ski Field Day for students to try out their newfound skills. Several key members of the faculty were highly enthusiastic about this idea, along with some of the athletic team captains, and the idea burst into fruition.



The club’s leaders took two steps early on that gave it a tremendous boost. In 1911 the club decided to expand on the Field Day to create a Winter Carnival — and to make it a true midwinter weekend by inviting female guests, for a lavish round of indoor and outdoor events in addition to the sports contest. This innovation boosted interest and excitement enormously, far beyond Harris’s band of adventurers, and truly launched the club as a campus-wide phenomenon. The other thing was inadvertent, but its consequences greater. The club had taken over an old lumber shanty

Fire Build: Using a bolt of dry firewood, three wooden matches, and a tin can with a wire handle, boil a given amount of soapy water.

Triples Events

Quarter Split: Each of three team members splits two hardwood logs for speed and accuracy.

Horizontal Chop: Each of three team members chop through a square white pine cant for time.

Team Events

Crosscut Saw: Three pairs will each make three cuts on square white pine cants in the fastest time possible.

Team Buck: Each team member makes one cut on square white pine cants for time.

Log Roll: Roll a log as quickly as possible using peaveys or cant hooks. Each of the three pairs will roll a log to the other end of the course, hit both stakes, and roll the log back to touch the starting stakes.

Pulp Toss: Throw pulpwood between two sets of stakes as quickly as possible. Three competitors will be at each end of the pit, and the pulp will be thrown back and forth until forty-eight sticks have landed between the stakes.

Packboard Relay: Lash a blanket, sandbag, and frying pan onto a packboard, and run a relay course. Each competitor will take a turn carrying the pack.

Canoeing Events

Singles Canoeing: Two contestants each canoe half of an obstacle course for a combined time.

Doubles Canoeing: Two contestants work together to canoe the course.

Portage Canoeing: First competitor paddles over a stretch of water, then carries the canoe and paddle over land. The canoe is handed off to the partner and he/she runs the course in reverse.

WOODSMEN'S TEAM HISTORY

This weekend's event began as talk among John Rand, Director of the Dartmouth Outing Club, Bill Robes of Kimball Union Academy, and Ross McKenney, the DOC's Woodcraft Advisor, about the unwillingness of students in the DOC to tackle primitive camping trips, because they did not have the skills to survive in the woods. Robes thought of turning such skills into an informal competition between schools. McKenney, as a woodsman of some fifty years' standing and former sportsman show competitor, had the tools for the job. As a result, the **first Woodsmen's Weekend was held in May 1947 at Dartmouth College's Storrs Pond** between the DOC, Kimball Union, and Williams College.

The annual meet grew rapidly in significance and excitement. Paul Smith's College joined the event in 1949 and the University of Maine that same year, and under the leadership of Gould Hoyt the PSC teams won for nine straight years from 1958-1966, while Maine dominated the contest in the early '70s. Since the early days, constant innovation in equipment and training has brought the sport to a level never imagined by McKenney. Today, the woodsman's tradition continues, alive and well.

BACKGROUND ON EVENTS

Many of the events at this weekend's meet come from, or are meant to represent, tasks that loggers needed to perform in order to make a living. Not many people work in the woods with hand tools and horses anymore; consequently, not everyone knows where these events came from. Hopefully a bit of background will make the meet more interesting for competitors and spectators alike.

Some events are obvious – **vertical chop**, clearly, was needed for felling great trees before the days of chainsaws. As crosscut saws became more common, the procedure changed to include sawing into the tree and then finishing the “bird's mouth” cut by taking chips out above the saw cut with the trusty axe. Then the back cut would be accomplished with the crosscut saw, leaving a guiding hinge just the way we would today with a chainsaw.

The **crosscut** saws you will see today are racing saws, much more delicate than one would see in the woods. They are light, sharp, fast, and expensive. Since the crosscut events involve cutting down through a horizontal piece of wood, they represent “bucking,” or cutting a felled tree into movable pieces. Bucking saws usually have a straight back and are thicker and stiffer than felling saws, which often have concave backs. If you think about the position in which they are used, this makes sense. **Horizontal chop** also represents bucking, when the logger was limited to his axe or was working alone.

Log roll and **scoot load** are related events. A “scoot” is a low sled, generally just two heavy hardwood runners with cross bracing – sometimes with steering (a bobsled), sometimes without. It would be pulled by a team of patient horses with sharp caulks in their shoes. “Log roll” represents getting the log from where it was bucked to where the scoot was waiting. “Scoot load” represents rolling logs up onto a scoot, where they would be chained down and hauled out to the yard, or “yarded out.” It was common for horses to learn the route to and from the yard and to be trusted to go by themselves after a while.

“Pulp” was wood fit only for making into paper, rather than lumber. One would cut pulp wood if the price at the mill was attractive enough, or perhaps if one was clearing land for pasture. Pulp wood is generally softwood of a small diameter, and “**pulp toss**” represents being able to move the wood and also stack it neatly and accurately.

It was not uncommon for a logger or surveyor to be “spiked out” or working and camping alone a distance from the logging camp. Who was going to carry your equipment? You, that's who, and a sturdy **packboard** was just the thing for carrying a heavy load. If you could get there by water, so much the better, in which case you'd better be able to **canoe**, and **portage**, or carry, the canoe from where one lake ended to where the next began.

Anyone who has worked hard in the outdoors will immediately see the usefulness in **splitting**, **firebuild** and **fly cast**. After you finished your trout supper you may well find yourself bored and wondering if you could hit THAT tree from twenty feet away with your axe. The longer you were spiked out the better you got, and the more eager to show off your **axe throw** when you got back to camp.

Many people are curious about “**chain throw**.” They don't throw it, and it's not a chain. The “chain” is both a tool and a unit of measure – traditionally the surveyor's chain was 66 feet long. Many chains, like the ones we are using at this meet, are 132 feet, or two chains long. Conveniently, an acre is one chain by ten chains, and a mile is eighty chains long. Coiling the chain quickly in a neat package was the job of the surveyor's assistant, who was generally being attacked by black flies and mocked by the surveyor while he was trying to accomplish the task. But when they were done, the area to be logged would be clearly marked off.